



*Decision Memo*  
**Smithfield Canyon Snow Trail**  
*Logan Ranger District, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest*  
*Cache, Utah*  
**December 2020**

---

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This document details my decision regarding designating a snow trail in Smithfield Canyon. Nordic United is proposing to groom a snow ski trail along 2.5 miles of the Smithfield Canyon.

Smithfield Canyon road is accessible year-round and has enough snow to allow grooming for public use with parking available along the road. Nordic United successfully groomed the trail on a trial basis during the 2019/2020 winter season. Informal feedback was provided by trail users during the trial process. Most users were in support of grooming the trail.

Project number in the Planning, Appeals, and Litigation System database: 59170

General Location: Smithfield Canyon Snow Trail is located approximately 7 miles north of Logan Utah along Highway 91 and 3 miles north east of Smithfield City.

## **2.0 PROPOSED ACTION**

The Logan Ranger District will include the grooming of Smithfield Canyon Snow Trail in Nordic United's special use permit which will allow for grooming at regular intervals throughout the winter and for the life of the permit. A track setting machine will be pulled behind a snowmobile to create the trail.

### ***2.1 Design Criteria***

- Operations will occur when there is enough snow approximately 4 to 6 inches.
- Nordic United will report activities to the Logan Ranger District as required in their permit.

## **3.0 DECISION AND RATIONALE**

My decision is to authorize the proposed action along with the required design criteria as described in section 2, above.

Based on environmental analysis and input from an interdisciplinary team of Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest resource specialists, I have determined that this action may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. In particular, this action falls under 36 CFR 220.6 (3) *Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land.*

The seven resource conditions that are considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action warrant further analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement are discussed below. As per Chapter 30, Section 31.2 of Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, the mere presences of one or more of these resource conditions does not preclude use of a categorical exclusion.

I have concluded that there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the decision that may result in a significant individual or cumulative environmental effect.

#### **4.0 SCOPING**

This project was listed in the Planning, Appeals and Litigation System Database (PALS) and posted to the forest website. The project was also reviewed by an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists who conducted multiple field trips to the site.

#### **5.0 FOREST PLAN AND LEGAL CONSISTENCY**

The project falls within Prescription 3.1a Aquatic Habitat Emphasis which states, "*Consist of stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1A, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.*"


I find that the proposed action is fully consistent with the 2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, as well as in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies. Specifically; the National Forest Management Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; Clean Water Act; Congressional designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or National Recreation Areas; Inventoried Roadless Areas; Research Natural Areas; Native American religious or cultural sites, archaeological sites, or historical properties or areas; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898).


#### **6.0 OBJECTION OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION**

My decision is not subject to administrative appeal or objection, as outlined in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 and the Agricultural Act of 2014. This decision may be implemented immediately.

#### **7.0 CONTACT PERSON**

For additional information about the project, contact David Ashby at david.ashby@usda.gov or 435-755-3620.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jennefer Parker**  
**District Ranger**  
**Logan Ranger District**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

---

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin,

---

religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

---

